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AUG 07 2006

Claims

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Claim 41 (Amended) A project management workflow system ~~for completing a task~~ comprising:

a computer;

a project management program executing in the computer providing:

a set of connected tasks each with an estimated duration including a first task with a start date, and ~~estimated duration and executing in the computer,~~

a function to enter and edit tasks and task connections,

a function to track completed tasks and partially completed tasks,

a function to determine the critical path, the sequence of connected tasks such that all tasks are completed in minimum time, and to compute the time to complete the critical path;

a workflow program executing in the computer providing a route, a sequence of process steps with a user for each step to perform the step ~~and executing in the computer;~~

such that a first route is defined to perform the first task;

when the first task is started in the project management program, then the first route is started in the workflow program;

when the first route is completed, then the first task is completed in the project management program and also completed in the project management workflow system.

Claim 42 The system of Claim 41, wherein the project management program provides a second task defined to start at the completion of the first task and a second route is defined to perform the second task such that

when the first task is completed, the second task is started in the project management program and then the second route is started in the workflow program;

when the second route is completed, then the second task is completed in the project management program.

Claim 43 (Amended) The system of Claim 41, wherein the project management program provides a second task defined to start at the completion of the first task and a second route is defined to perform the second task and

a third task with a third route defined to perform the third task such that when the ~~project management program~~ set of connected tasks is changed so that the third task is defined to start at the completion of the first task rather than the second task, then:

when the first task is completed, the third task is started in the project management program and then the third route is started in the workflow program;

when the third route is completed, then the third task is completed in the project management program.

Claim 44 The system of Claim 41, wherein the completion time for the first route in the workflow program is set in the project management program as the completion time for the first task.

Claim 45 The system of Claim 41, wherein the project management program provides a user for the first task and the user in the first route is set to the user in the first task.

Claim 46 The system of Claim 41, wherein the project management program sends a starting message, including an e-mail or xml message, to the workflow program at the start of the first task to start the first route and the workflow program sends a completion message at the completion of the first route to the project management program to complete the task.

Claim 47 The system of Claim 41, wherein a step in the first route is designated as partial completion of the first task such that when the step is completed, the workflow program sends a message, including an e-mail or xml message, to the project management program to indicate partial completion of the first task.

Claim 48 (Amended) A method to implement a project workflow system ~~to complete a task~~ comprising:

a project management system, including a project management program executing in a computer, providing:

a set of connected tasks each with an estimated duration including a first task with a start date and estimated duration,

a function to enter and edit tasks and task connections,

a function to track completion and partial completion of tasks.

a function to determine the critical path, the sequence of tasks such that all tasks are completed in minimum time and to compute the time to complete the critical path; and a workflow system, including a workflow program executing in a computer, providing a route, a sequence of process steps with a user for each step to perform the step; wherein the method comprises:

defining a first route to perform the first task;

starting the first route in the workflow system when the first task is started in the project management system ;

completing the first task in the project management system when the first route is completed in the workflow system; and

completing the first task in the project workflow system.

Claim 49 The method of Claim 48, wherein the project management system provides a second task defined to start at the completion of the first task,

the method further comprises:

defining a second route to perform the second task;

starting the second route when the first task completes and the second task is started;

completing the second task when the second route is completed.

Claim 50 (Amended) The method of Claim 48, wherein the project management system provides a second task defined to start at the completion of the first task and a second route is defined to perform the second task and

a third task with a third route defined to perform the third task

where the method further comprises:

changing the project management system set of connected tasks to start the third task at the completion of the first task

starting the third task when the first task is completed and the third route is started in the workflow system;

completing the third task when the third route is completed.

Claim 51 The method of Claim 48, wherein the completion time for the first route is set in the project management system as the completion time for the first task.

Claim 52 The method of Claim 48, wherein the project management system provides a user for the first task and the user in the first route is set to the user in the first task.

Claim 53 The method of Claim 48, wherein the project management system sends a starting message, including an e-mail or xml message, to the workflow system at the start of the first task to start the first route and the workflow system sends a completion message at the completion of the first route to the project management system to complete the first task.

Claim 54 The method of Claim 48, wherein a step in the first route is designated as partial completion of the first task such that when the step is completed, the workflow system sends a message, including an e-mail or xml message, to the project management system to indicate partial completion of the first task.

Claim 55 (Amended) A method to sequentially execute a first route and then a second route for a workflow system using of a project management system where the workflow system, including a workflow program executing in a computer, provides a first route, a sequence of process steps with a user for each step to perform the step, and
a second route; and

the project management system, including a project management program executing in a computer, provides:

a set of connected tasks each with an estimated duration including a first task with start date and estimated duration and connected to

a second task ~~where~~ such that at the completion of the first task, the second task is started,

a function to enter and edit tasks and task connections,

a function to track completion and partial completion of tasks,

a function to determine the critical path, the sequence of tasks such that all tasks are completed in minimum time, and to compute the time to complete the critical path;

wherein the method provides:

defining the first route to perform the first task and

defining the second route to perform the second task;

starting the first route in the workflow system when the first task is started in the project management system;

completing the first task in the project management system when the first route completes in the workflow system;
 starting the second route in the workflow system when second task starts in the project management system;
 completing the second task when the second route is completed such that the first route and second route are sequentially executed.

Claim 56 (Amended) The method of Claim 55, wherein the project management system provides

a third task with a third route defined to perform the third task such that when the ~~project management system~~ set of connected tasks is changed so that the third task is defined to start at the completion of the first task rather than the second task, then:

when the first task is completed, the third task is started in the project management system and then the third route is started in the workflow system;

when the third route is completed, then the third task is completed in the project management system.

Claim 57 The method of Claim 55, wherein the completion time for the first route is set in the project management system as the completion time for the first task.

Claim 58 The method of Claim 55, wherein the project management system provides a user for the first task and the user in the first route is set to the user in the first task.

Claim 59 The method of Claim 55, wherein the project management system sends a starting message, including an e-mail or xml message, to the workflow system at the start of the first task to start the first route and the workflow system sends a completion message at the completion of the first route to the project management system.

Claim 60 The method of Claim 55, wherein a step in the first route is designated as partial completion of the first task such that when the step is completed, the workflow system sends a message, including an e-mail or xml message, to the project management system to indicate partial completion of the first task.